

Junior League of Racine, Kiwanis Club of West Racine, Over Our Head Players, the Racine Community Foundation, and the Racine Public Library Endowment Fund have all contributed to this celebration.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS JAMES DOSTER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SFC James Doster of White Hall, AR, who died on September 29, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 38 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations in Iraq.

Sergeant First Class Doster graduated from White Hall High School before attending Hendrix College. While in college, his deep sense of unity and teamwork led him to join the United States Army and honorably serve his country. Although he was a quiet man, everyone who had the privilege to meet and know him was immediately made aware that he had a big heart and could see how much he cared for all those around him. He was a dedicated family man who was always there for his family—especially his two daughters, whom he adored.

Sergeant First Class Doster joined the Army in 1990, and his proud service will continue to live on and serve as an inspiration to the many soldiers who knew him and fought alongside him in combat. He served in the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley, Kansas. His bravery, courage and dedication to the Army are exemplified by his 17 years of service. He believed so deeply in the Army that he also served as a recruiter helping others gain the passion and sense of camaraderie, service and love of his country that he possessed.

SFC James Doster will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, a father and a husband. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, Amanda Doster; his two daughters, Kathryn and Grace; his mother, Billie Doster; and his brother, Rob Doster. He will be missed by his family, his community, his country and all those who knew him. I honor Sergeant First Class Doster for his bravery, his patriotism and his service and I will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES JERRY BOYINGTON, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Baldwin County and indeed the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of James Jerry Boyington, Sr.

Jerry Boyington, former State senator and Baldwin County commissioner, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A native of Bay Minette and a longtime resident of Fairhope, Jerry was a decorated major in the U.S. Army and veteran of the Vietnam War, and he served his country with honor and distinction.

Jerry's legacy in Baldwin County and the State of Alabama will certainly be his hard work and dedication to the people of southwest Alabama. In addition to serving in the Alabama Senate and as chairman of the Baldwin County Commission, he also served as Baldwin County administrator and chief corrections officer for the Baldwin County sheriff's office.

Jerry's political savvy, combined with his many friendships in the legislature, helped county officials pass zoning legislation, which has proven critical to the county's growth.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. James Jerry Boyington Sr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Linda Boyington; their daughter, Shanna Boyington; their sons, Chris Boyington and Clay Boyington; his brother, Curtis Boyington, his sisters, Lucille Adams, Foy Kusion, and Jewell Boyington, and two grandchildren, James J. Boyington, III, and Anna Boyington—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very serious issue facing the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

On July 15, 2007 aboard the United States Coast Guard barque *Eagle* training vessel, a Third Class male minority cadet returned from watch to his stateroom to find a small noose in his bag. The next morning at an all-hands muster, the cadet stepped forward to show the entire crew the noose and make clear that he was offended by it. Although the person responsible could not be identified, the commander of the *Eagle* held an "all hands" meeting to outline the clear standards of conduct and expectations for Coast Guard cadets. The Academy followed up by conducting race-relations training for all cadets. Alarming, the officer conducting the training later found a noose in her office as well.

I recently had the opportunity to speak to the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Thad Allen, to express my concern over these incidents. Racism and hate have no place at our military academies, on our academic campuses or in our society. Our discussion made it clear to me that the Coast Guard takes this matter seriously, and is working to get to the root of the problem and identify the perpetrators. The Coast Guard

Investigative Service is currently reviewing this matter and I am confident that they will do all they can to ensure that those responsible for these hateful acts are held accountable for their actions.

We must make clear that actions like this have no place at the Coast Guard Academy—a facility that is shaping future officers responsible for the protection of our nation. The image of the noose is an enduring symbol of the brutal lynching that occurred in the south during the civil rights era and its powerful effect should not be taken lightly nor its evocation tolerated. It is important that the Coast Guard, and our society, sends a strong message to these misinformed individuals that there is zero tolerance for racism and hate.

The Coast Guard Academy has always held the highest standard of academic excellence and world-class training for those who protect our shores. The Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty are more than simple words—they are a way of life that the Academy strives to engrain in every cadet.

A vast majority of the cadets represent the best the Coast Guard and our nation have to offer: bright, dedicated young men and women who demonstrate tolerance and respect for each other, regardless of race or background. Those who do not meet the Coast Guard's core values simply have no place at its Academy.

CONGRATULATING MR. DENNIS
HAHN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF ST. LOUIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mr. Dennis Hahn. Dennis has been selected to receive the 2007 Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge's George Washington Honor Medal. The Freedoms Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close link between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

Dennis is a charter member of the St. Charles, Missouri chapter of the Fernando de Leyba, the Sons of the American Revolution, founded in 1997. He is a charter member and Vice President of the Missouri Postal History Society since 2001. Dennis is an active member and Treasurer at the First Baptist Church of St. Charles, Missouri, as well as Sunday school teacher, Chairman and member of numerous committees, current President of the school board, and member of the St. Charles City Economic Development Commission.

Dennis is married to Shirley Hahn, a public school teacher for the St. Charles school district. He is also the father of the three children and grandfather of five.

As one who has a deep and abiding love for American history and the patriots who have gone before us, I want to thank Dennis Hahn for his commitment to preserving our history and congratulate him for being selected for the 2007 George Washington Honor Medal.